



PATENT
Appl'n No.: 10/082,069
Attny Dkt No.: 11032-3040

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: MERRIMAN, Dwight et al

Appl'n No.: 10/082,069

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendment:

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/362,008, filed July 27, 1999, now pending, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/095,146, filed August 3, 1998. This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/094,949, filed June 15, 1998, now pending, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/048,940, filed June 16, 1997, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/049,877, filed June 17, 1997. --

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the foregoing amendments, the application is in clear condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.